



Aleister Crowley
 “To Mega Therion” (“*The Great Beast*”)

“Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law. Love is the law, love under will.”



Aleister Crowley (12 October 1875 – 1 December 1947) was an English writer and “*ceremonial magician*” and widely thought of as the most influential occultist of all time. He founded the religion of **Thelema**, identifying himself as the prophet entrusted with guiding humanity into the **Æon of Horus** in the early 20th century. A prolific writer, he published widely over the course of his life: In 1898, Crowley published a work of poetry entitled “*White Stains*” - the topics in this work included *homosexuality*, *pederasty*, *bestiality*, *coprophilia*, and *necrophilia*. More-so, *as well as* writing *poetry* and taking *drugs*, Crowley was also an *accomplished mountaineer*: He rather exuberantly scaled K2, the 2nd highest mountain in the world and Kanchenjunga, the 3rd highest.

People *sometimes* think *that* Aleister Crowley was joking around or just trying to shock people by calling himself **TO MEGA ΘHPION DCLXVI (The Great Beast 666)**... but he really meant it and there are good reasons to think he may have been right. Crowley gained widespread notoriety during his lifetime, being a *recreational drug experimenter* and *bisexual*, *as well as* a **Satanic sodomite**, **pedophile**, and **coprophagous necrophiliac**: He was denounced in the popular press as “*the wickedest man in the world*.” Nonetheless, in 2002, a BBC poll ranked him as the seventy-third greatest Briton of all time.

Having prescribed Crowley with morphine for his asthma and bronchitis, his last doctor died within 24 hours of his patient. It is rumored that shortly before Crowley's death he had refused to refill his prescription thus making his patient place a curse on him.

Crowley was born into a wealthy upper class family. Early on his life, Crowley developed an *intense sexual fixation* on women. He lost his *virginity* (age 14) to one of the family's maids on his mother's bed. The maid was promptly fired and became a homeless drunk: (It is rumored that she became one of Jack the Ripper's victims). Three years later, Crowley contracted *gonorrhea* from a prostitute.

In 1898, he (age 23) began his life-long love affair with *mysticism* and the *occult* joining the clandestine organization, **The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn**, after befriending the order's leader, British occultist and **Master Mason Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers** (1854-1918) - *a ceremonial magic order of which offshoots still exist today*. However, his affiliation didn't last long as he never failed to offend the elder members of the group, famously aggravating well known poet **William Butler Yeats** and **Arthur Edward Waite**. He was expelled from The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn because of his *deviant and homosexual behavior*. Although many of the organization's members were homosexual they felt the need to keep it hidden so Crowley's *blatant promiscuity* with men and women, some being *prostitutes* and *rent boys*, greatly offended and angered them.

Crowley was *also* involved with the **Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.)** ("**Order of the Temple of the East**" or "**Order of Oriental Templars**"), an international fraternal and religious organization founded at the beginning of the 20th century, and modeled after and associated with the **Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry** (*also known as Rosicrucianism*). [Note: **Freemasonry**, one of the world's oldest secular fraternal organizations, arose during late-16th/early-17th century Britain. The *secretive power elite* within Freemasonry, having a *globalist agenda*, is dedicated to the emergence of *a totalitarian one-world government* which will replace sovereign nation-states with an all-encompassing propaganda whose ideology hails to achieve world domination with the establishment of the **New World Order**. In other words, Freemasons have a hidden political agenda and are conspiring to bring about a New World Order, a one-world government organized according to Masonic principles and/or governed only by Freemasons, who secretly practice **Satanism** and worship **Lucifer** the "*light-bringer*" as **the Supreme Being** and **Great Architect of the Universe**. The all-seeing **Eye of Providence**, a symbol showing an eye *often* surrounded by rays of light or a glory and *usually* enclosed by a triangle, and the "*unfinished pyramid*" are both **Masonic symbols**, and the Latin phrase "*novus ordo seclorum*," which appears on the reverse side of the **Great Seal of the United States (1782)** and on the back of the "*one-dollar bill*," since 1935, translates to "**New Order of the Ages**." Furthermore, **Adam Weishaupt** (1748-1830) adopted the name of "**Brother Spartacus**" and founded his own quasi-masonic society, the **Bavarian Order of the Illuminati**, on 1 May 1776. Lurking in the shadows and pulling the strings and levers of power the **Illuminati** conspire to control world affairs, by masterminding events and planting agents in government and corporations, in order to gain political power and influence and to establish a New World Order.]

In the religion of **Thelema**, it is believed that the history of humanity can be divided into *a series of aeons* (also written æons), each of which was accompanied by its own forms of "magical and religious expression." The first of these was the **maternal Aeon of Isis**, which Thelemites believed occurred during *prehistory*, reaching its zenith *approximately* 2400 BCE, and which saw mankind worshipping a **Great Goddess**, symbolized by the ancient Egyptian deity **Isis** - characterized by pagan worship of the Mother and Nature, the Godhead was revered due to a mostly matriarchal society and the idea that "**Mother Earth**" nourished, clothed and housed man closed in the "*womb of Matrix*." The anthropomorphic female deity was worshipped by countless cultures under myriad names and forms... and our Asian-age progenitors perceived nature as a continuous process of spontaneous growth.

In Thelemite beliefs, this was followed by the **Aeon of Osiris**, a period that took place in the *classical and mediaeval centuries*, when humanity worshipped a singular male god, symbolized by the Egyptian god **Osiris**, and was *therefore dominated by patriarchal principles* and the formula of the **Dying and Rising God**- a religious motif in which a god dies and is resurrected... - the motif being associated with *fertility rites* surrounding the *yearly cycle of vegetation*. Examples of "*gods who die and later return to life*" are most often cited from the **religions of the Ancient Near East**, and traditions influenced by them including **Biblical and Greco-Roman mythology** and by extension **Christianity**. This second aeon is one of *suffering and death*: the spiritual strives to ignore the material: Christianity and all cognate religions worship death, glorify suffering, and deify corpses.

And, *finally*, the third aeon, the modern **Aeon of Horus**, which is controlled by the child god, symbolized by **Horus**. In this new aeon, Thelemites believe that humanity will enter a time self-actualization. The Word of its Law is Thelema (will), which is complemented by Agape (love), and its formula is **Abrahadabra**, which the **Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn** in their Neophyte ritual linked with "**Breath and Life**." Individuality and finding the individual's **True Will** are the dominant aspects; its formula is that of growth, in consciousness and love, toward self-realization.

Note: "Abrahadabra" is also referred to as the "**Word of Double Power**." More specifically, it represents the uniting of the Microcosm with the Macrocosm - represented by the pentagram and the hexagram, the rose and the cross, the circle and the square, the 5 and the 6, etc. - as also called the attainment of the Knowledge and Conversation of one's **Holy Guardian Angel**.

“It should never be forgotten for a single moment that the central and essential work of the Magician is the attainment of the Knowledge and Conversation of the Holy Guardian Angel. Once he has achieved this he must of course be left entirely in the hands of that Angel, who can be invariably and inevitably relied upon to lead him to the further great step - crossing of the Abyss and the attainment of the grade of Master of the Temple.”

Crowley, “*Magic Without Tears*,” Ch.83

Some Thelemites believe that the **Aeon of Ma’at** will eventually replace the present one - others believe that it has already arrived or overlaps the present Aeon of Horus the Child. Within the Thelemite religion, each of these aeons is believed to be “characterized by their [own specific] magical formula,” the use of which “is very important and fundamental to the understanding of **Thelemic Magick**.”

Gerald Gardner (1884–1964), also known by the craft name “**Scire**,” an upper-middle-class English author, amateur anthropologist and archaeologist, has been called the “**father of Wicca or modern Witchcraft**.” He joined an occult group known as the **Rosicrucian Order Crotona Fellowship** - a Rosicrucian group founded by **George Alexander Sullivan** (1890–1942) in about 1924., through which he claimed to have encountered the **New Forest coven**, an alleged group of **Neopagan witches** or Wiccans who met around the area of the New Forest in southern England during the 1930s and 1940s, into which he was initiated in 1939. He believed the coven to be a survival of the **pre-Christian Witch-Cult** discussed in the works of “**first-wave feminist**” **Margaret Murray** (1863-1963): She believed that the witch trials of Early Modern Christendom were an attempt to extinguish a surviving pre-Christian, pagan religion devoted to a **Horned God** - a horned or antlered anthropomorphic god with partly pseudohistorical origins, partly based on historical horned deities - the consort of the female **Triple Goddess** or **Mother Goddess**. Gardner attempted to revive the faith, supplementing the coven’s rituals with ideas borrowed from **Freemasonry**, “**ceremonial magic**” and the writings of **Aleister Crowley** to form the Gardnerian tradition of Wicca: Gardner took a bunch of Crowley’s writings, and material from **Liber AL vel Legis**, and sort of cut and pasted them with a few words changed and a few words added. From this he created initiation rituals, the **Charge of the Goddess**, the **Drawing Down the Moon ritual**, and more. . (There are few figures in esoteric history who can rival Gardner for his dominating place in the pantheon of pagan pioneers.)

The technical title of **The Threefold Book of the Law** is **Liber AL vel Legis**, sub figura CCXX, as delivered by **XCIII=418 to DCLXVI**, and it is the central sacred text of **Thelema**, allegedly written down from dictation mostly by Aleister Crowley, although his wife **Rose Edith Crowley** is also known to have written two phrases into the manuscript after its dictation. Crowley claimed it was dictated to him by a discarnate entity named **Aiwass**. However, the three chapters are largely written in the first person by the **Thelemic deities Nuit, Hadit, and Ra-Hoor-Khu**it respectively, rather than by Aiwass. Through the reception of the Book of the Law, Crowley proclaimed the arrival of a new stage in the spiritual evolution of humanity, to be known as the “**Æon of Horus**.” The primary precept of this new aeon is the charge to “**Do what thou wilt**.”

Nuit, Queen of Infinite Space, usually depicted as a naked woman who is covered with stars, represents the *infinitely-expanded circle whose circumference is unmeasurable* and whose center is everywhere (whereas **Hadit**, her masculine counterpart, is the infinitely small point within the core of every single thing). Note: The sun god **Ra** entered her mouth after the sun set in the evening and was reborn from her vulva the next morning. She also swallowed and rebirthed stars. She was a *goddess of death*, and her image is on the inside of most sarcophagi. The pharaoh entered her body after death and was later resurrected.

Hadit the “**Secret Seed**,” the “**Fire of Desire**” at the “**Heart of Matter (Nuit)**,” the “**Great God**” and “**Lord of the Sky in the form of the winged disk of the Sun**,” was the Thelemic version of **Chaos**, connected with every individual star in the Universe - and may have referred to the ancient Egyptian mythological **Snake Demon Apophis**, “**Lord of Chaos**,” the *opponent of light and Ma’at (justice, order and truth)*: (The solar deity **Ra**, like the Biblical **Lucifer** and Greek **Prometheus**, was a *bringer of light*, and thus the **upholder of Ma’at** - and Apophis was the greatest enemy of Ra). Hadit is identified as the point in the center of the circle, the axle of the wheel, the cube in the circle, “the flame that burns in every heart of man, and in the core of every star,” and the worshipper’s own inner self, the inner spirit of humankind, the **Holy Ghost**, the sperm and ovum in which the **DNA** of man is carried, the Elixir Vitae.

Crowley identified Chaos as the “**father of life**” and counterpart of **Babalón**, (also known as the Scarlet Woman, Great Mother or Mother of Abominations). He believed in his life the **Lady of Babalon** was personified as **Lady Leah Hirsig** (9 April 1883 - 22 February 1975), who, after several portraits, was consecrated, taking the name Soror **Alostrael** (“Divine Womb”), the sixth of eleven Scarlet Women (i.e. holy Oracles), Matron Saint of the Holy Thelemic Church.

It is the interaction between these two cosmic principles that creates the manifested universe similar to the gnostic syzygy (i.e. a pair of connected or corresponding things). The combination of the upward-pointing triangle of Hadit and the downward-pointing triangle of Nuit forms the **Star of Spirit** (the Hexagram). The union of the infinitely small Hadit and the infinitely great Nuit causes an explosive rapture which leads to **samādhi** - a one-pointedness of mind.

Ra-Hoor-Khuit, the speaker in the Third Chapter of The Book of the Law, called the **Lord of the Aeon** (which began in 1904 according to Thelemic doctrine) and **The Crowned and Conquering Child**, is a composite deity within

Thelema composed of **Ra-Hoor-Khuit** (“Heru-ra-ha,” *literally* “Horus sun-flesh”), more commonly referred to by the Greek transliteration **Ra-Herakhty** (“Ra who is Horus on the Horizon”), and **Hoor-paar-kraat**, adapted from the Greek god Harpocrates, the god of silence, secrets and confidentiality in the Hellenistic religion developed in **Ptolemaic Alexandria**¹ - and also an embodiment of hope, according to **Plutarch** (c. 46 - after 119 CE), a Greek biographer and essayist - showing the two as manifestations of the singular Solar Force.

Ra-Hoor-Khuit is symbolized by the **five-pointed “star of flame.”** “**Khuit**” also refers to a local form of the goddess **Hathor** at **Athribis**, who guarded the “**Heart of Osiris**”: (Osiris is , usually identified as the god of the afterlife, the underworld, and the dead, but more appropriately as the god of transition, resurrection, and regeneration). “**Khut**” refers to the goddess **Isis** as *light giver of the new year*, and by some accounts can also mean the *fiery serpent on the crown of Ra*. This last meaning serves as a title of Isis in one of the hymns to “**Isis-Hathor**” at the **Temple of Philae**. Hathor *also* has the titles “**Uraeus of Ra**” and “**Great Flame.**”

According to Crowley, the first appearance of **Aiwass** (the solar-phallic-hermetic “Devil,” “Satan,” and “Lucifer,” whose “emblem is Baphomet” - the Androgyne of arcane perfection - the Supreme Soul and Lord of our particular Starry Universe) was during the **Three Days** of the writing of **Liber AL vel Legis**. Aiwass, a voice of a *non-corporeal intelligence*, most likely an unconscious manifestation of Crowley’s delusional personality, was the being which dictated **The Book of the Law to Crowley**; in the book’s first chapter, Aiwass introduces itself as “the minister of Hoor-paar-kraat.” Crowley went to great pains to argue that Aiwass was an objectively separate being from himself, possessing far more knowledge than he or any other human could possibly have. However, Crowley *also* spoke of Aiwass in symbolic terms, he went on at length making comparisons to various other deities and spiritual concepts, but most especially to **The Fool** (i.e. the insane person whose words have always been taken for oracles). Yet, even while eventually identifying Aiwass as his **Holy Guardian Angel**, Crowley still went to even greater lengths in his later years to insist that Aiwass was an objective entity apart from himself... - even going as far as to declare in no uncertain terms that the Holy Guardian Angel is not only entirely objective, but is also not to be confused with the “**Higher Self.**” Crowley claimed *that* Satan the serpent was not the enemy of humankind, but *actually* made the godlings of our race and knowing “**Good and Evil,**” taught Initiation, saying: “**Know Thyself!**”

Most people are quite aware of Aleister Crowley’s censored appearance on the cover of the Beatles’ “**Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Heart’s Club Band.**” Few, though, have gone on to ask why Aleister Crowley made the cut. **John Lennon** made the connection clear in an interview with **Playboy** when he said: “The whole Beatle idea was to do what you want, right? To take your own responsibility.” Lennon was paraphrasing “**Do what thou wilt,**” which is one of the central precepts of **Thelema**, the religion founded by Aleister Crowley. Thelema is the Greek word which means “**will**” and teaches that we each must discover our individual inmost nature, described as the “**True Will.**”

The Beatles were only the first of many counterculture rock musicians in the 1960s to openly cite Aleister Crowley as an influence. **Led Zeppelin** guitarist **Jimmy Page** was very interested in Aleister Crowley and bought his former residence in Scotland, Boleskine House. Page remains a prominent Thelemite today.

Crowley *also* once dined in Berlin with **Aldous Huxley** (1894-1963), one of the pre-eminent intellectuals of his time, and the rumor goes that Crowley introduced him to *peyote*. **Timothy Leary** (1920-1996), an American psychologist and writer known for advocating the exploration of the therapeutic potential of *psychedelic drugs*, such as **LSD** and *psilocybin*, saw himself as continuing Crowley’s work. There is much more to explore, including Crowley’s efforts to make Eastern philosophy more accessible to the West, which helped to inspire the whole **Luciferean New Age movement**.

¹ In a struggle with the other successors of **Alexander III the Great**, King of Macedonia (20/21 July 356 BC - 10/11 June 323 BCE), his general, **Ptolemy** (later **Ptolemy I of Egypt**) succeeded in bringing Alexander’s body to **Alexandria** (founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BCE). Alexander’s tomb became a famous tourist destination for ancient travelers (including **Julius Caesar**). After its foundation, Alexandria became the seat of the **Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt**, and quickly grew to be one of the greatest cities of the Hellenistic world - second only to Rome in size and wealth.

Cleopatra VII Philopator (69 - 12 August 30 BCE), known to history simply as **Cleopatra**, was the last active ruler of **Ptolemaic Egypt**, briefly survived as pharaoh by her son **Caesarion son of Julius Caesar**. After her reign, Egypt became a province of the recently-established **Roman Empire**. Cleopatra was a member of the **Ptolemaic dynasty**, a Greek family of Macedonian origin that ruled Egypt during the Hellenistic period. The Ptolemies spoke Greek throughout their dynasty, and refused to speak Egyptian, which is the reason that Greek as well as Egyptian languages were used on official court documents. By contrast, Cleopatra did learn to speak Egyptian and represented herself as the reincarnation of the **Egyptian goddess Isis**.